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31 MAR 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

[REDACTED]
Chief, International Activities Division

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Socialist International

1. This memorandum is for your information.

2. Attachment is a 16 March 1982 DDI memorandum on the Socialist International (SI). It was prepared in response to a request by Vice President Bush and is, in our judgment, both accurate and authoritative. We believe the memorandum, which addresses the SI's organizational structure and the dynamics that are likely to shape its posture on several current issue areas, is responsive to your 5 March 1982 request (Subject: Evaluation of Communist Parties and Activity) for an evaluation of the SI.

3. We do not view the SI as a controlled instrument of Soviet policy [REDACTED]

The SI's political impact, though, derives less from resolutions and organizational positions than from the adaptation of specific themes by member parties to the policy positions of their respective countries and declarations by influential individuals. This, of course, is very much dependent on the relevance of a particular issue to respective party interests and objectives. [REDACTED]

4. In their memorandum, the DDI authors make one point which we find to be of particular importance [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They observe that: "By virtue of working together over time, SI members have developed considerable respect for some of their colleagues, and are thereby particularly

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open to influence from them." In point of fact, out of the approximately 50 social and social democratic parties which make up the SI, only about eight are significant.* It is the leadership of these parties that exerts political leverage within the SI, clout gained primarily because these leaders have held, hold, or may be expected to hold key government positions and political prestige in their respective countries.

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